

COUNCIL ON HOUSING  
Public Session  
Huling Cove Community Building  
Lewes, Delaware  
October 9, 2013

**Important Dates**

- Great Lakes Capital Funds Merger formal announcement to be held October 30, 2013, 11:00 a.m. at the Queen Theater in Wilmington.
- November 13 – next Council meeting at Luther Towers.
- FY2015 Budget – Public hearing will be held November 26, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. in Legislative Hall.

Ms. Sokolowski, Chair, called to order the public session of the Council on Housing at 2:05 p.m. on October 9, 2013. In addition to Ms. Sokolowski, the following Council members were present:

Hugh Leahy  
Corrine Massey  
Donna Mitchell

Ralph Peters  
Norma Zumsteg

The following Council members were absent and excused from the meeting:

Pat Batchelor  
Francis Julian

Connie Louder  
Vincent White

Also attending:

Anas Ben Addi, Director, Delaware State Housing Authority (DSHA)  
Lynda Blythe, Administrative Specialist III, DSHA  
Susan Eliason, Director of Housing Development  
Mabel Hayes, Administrative Specialist II, DSHA  
Matthew Heckles, Legislative and Policy Advisor, DSHA

Guest present:

Susan Starrett, Executive Director, Homeless Planning Council of Delaware (HPC)

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Zumsteg moved that the Minutes of September 11, 2013 be approved as written. Mr. Peters seconded the motion and the Minutes were unanimously approved.

### **DSHA REPORT** – Mr. Ben Addi

- FY2015 Budget – Public hearing will be held November 26, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. in Legislative Hall.
- Federal Government Shutdown Impact on DSHA
  - Immediate – none
  - Over 30 days – moderate
  - Over 60 days – severe
- DSHA Properties – Smoking Policy
  - Effective October 1, 2013 all DSHA properties are smoke free
  - It is a violation to smoke in any units
- DCIC – Great Lakes Capital Funds Merger
  - Council is invited to attend the merger's formal announcement to be held October 30, 2013, 11:00 a.m. at the Queen Theater in Wilmington.

### **HOMELESS PLANNING COUNCIL Presentation** – Ms. Starrett

Ms. Starrett gave a PowerPoint presentation (copy attached) regarding the Homeless Response System of Delaware. The following areas were emphasized:

- Homelessness in Delaware
- Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act and Regulations
- Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness
- System Transformation
- System Re-Design
- HPC's Role

Mr. Peters stated the Council's Policy Committee is seeking to find additional areas where Council can expand their advocacy role and that homelessness improvement, if not prevention, is one of those areas. Ms. Starrett assured Mr. Peters she would be in contact with him to discuss her ideas for Council support.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **LOAN REVIEW** - Mr. Leahy

The Committee met on September 27<sup>th</sup> and discussed the one funding request from HPC. Mr. Leahy reminded Council that, in 2012, DSHA took over the funding of HPC. It is the recommendation of the committee, after due discussion, that the following request be considered by the Council which Mr. Leahy so moved:

- Homeless Planning Council of Delaware, Resolution No. 465 be approved subject to verbiage modification. Ms. Zumsteg seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Mr. Leahy asked Ms. Starrett to periodically attend Council meetings to give an update on performance measures.

**OPERATIONS** – Ms. Sokolowski for Ms. Louder

Reminded Council members to send their completed Conflict of Interest forms to Ms. Blythe. Mr. Heckles advised that the By-Laws approved at the September meeting have been posted to the DSHA website.

**POLICY** - Mr. Peters

The advocacy of income discrimination legislation for the state is one of Council's key strategic needs as noted in the Annual Report. Mr. Peters reminded Council that Kyle Hodges, State Council for Persons with Disabilities, who is spearheading this legislation, spoke at the March 13, 2013 meeting.

Legislation was introduced in June 2012 and went to Committee but went no further. It is believed the legislation will be re-introduced in the coming months. Mr. Hodges has agreed to attend a Policy Committee meeting by the end of October to update them on the status of this legislation. Mr. Peters will report to Council in November on some alternatives and plans for advocacy on this issue for approval by Council so they might move forward if so desired.

**COMMUNICATIONS** – Mr. Heckles for Ms. Batchelor

The Annual Report, which closed out the fiscal year, June 30, 2013, has been edited to expand a statement on non-HDF activity. Mr. Peters moved that the final draft of the Annual Report (copy attached) be approved with the understanding that any typos will be cleaned up. Ms. Zumsteg seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

There is still one vacancy on Council with no candidates at this time. The position is to be filled by a City of Wilmington, Republican resident. Mr. Heckles assured Council that the Governor's office is aware of this.

**SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held November 13, at Luther Towers I in Dover, DE, at 2:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion made by Mr. Leahy, seconded by Ms. Batchelor, and unanimously passed by the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynda T. Blythe

Note: Copies of materials referenced as "attached" in these Minutes are available upon request.